

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W

-----118422 141012Z /21

R 140900Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 007

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CG US

SUBJ: CHARGE'S MEETING WITH PRES YHOMBY-OPANGO, NOV 5

1. SUMMARY: CONGOLESE PRES YHOMBY-OPANGO WAS VERY RELAXED AND FRIENDLY DURING FIRST MEETING WITH CHARGE. PRES MADE NO EXPLICIT APPEAL FOR AID. END SUMMARY

2. ALTHOUGH PRES ADVISOR EKONDY HAD ANTICIPATED INTIAL MEETING WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE NOV 10, CHARGE RECEIVED WORD PREVIOUS EVENING THAT PRES YHOMBY-OPANGO WOULD RECEIVE HIM MORNING, NOV 5.

3. YHOMBY-OPANGO MET WITH CHARGE AT PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES. EKONDY ALSO WAS PRESENT. CHARGE EXTENDED TO CHIEF OF STATE BEST WISHES OF USG AND AMERICAN PEOPLE, EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR CORDIAL WELCOME, AND TOLD HIM THAT WE ARE COMING TO CONGO AS FRIENDS. WE SEEK, AS DOES HE, MAINTAINANCE OF CONGOLESE INDEPENDENCE. CHARGE TOLD PRES HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING CABINET AND MEMBERS OF MILITARY COMMITTEE, AND TO TRAVELLING IN INTERIOR: WE WANT TO MEET THE CONGOLESE PEOPLE AND, AFTER A TWELVE YEAR HIATUS, TO ALLOW HIS PEOPLE TO GET TO KNOW US BETTER.

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4. THE PRES WAS WARM IN HIS REPLY. HE TOLD OF HIS DEEP ADMIRATION FOR THE US, WHERE "HARD WORK HAD BUILT A GREAT COUNTRY". PRES ALSO EXPRESSED HIS RESPECT FOR PRES CARTER'S POLICY TOWARD WOUTHERN AFRICA.

5. YHOMBY-OPANGO ADDED THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF CHARGE'S

DESIRE TO MEET THE CONGOLESE PEOPLE. "DON'T GET TOO INVOLVED WITH THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS", HE COUNSELED, "THEY FOLLOW OLD CUSTOMS". BASED ON MEETING WITH SOME OF OUR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, WE SUSPECT WE KNOW WHAT PRESEIDENT MEANS. (SEPARATE MESSAGE FOLLOWS.)

6. LASTLY, PRES OFFICERED ANOTHER BIT OF CANDID ADVICE BY URGING THAT WE NOT TAKE TOO SERIOUSLY THE SLOGANS OF ". MANY OF THE CONGOLESE YOUTH WHO ARE NOT OTHERWISE EMPLOYEED". "THEY ARE NOT EXPERIENCED, AND HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO: THEY ARE A PROBLEM." IF ANY POLITICAL SLOGANS OR SPEECHES HERE SEEMED OFFENSIVE TO US, PRES ASKED CHARGE TO COME TO HIM DIRECTLY, "IN FACT COME TO SEE ME ANY TIME YOU'D LIKE. I LOOK FORWARD TO US COOPERATING TOGETHER", HE CONCLUDED.

7. FYI: EKONDY TOLD CHARGE UPON LEAVING THAT PRESIDENT STILL WISHES INFORMATION ON TRANSOCEANIC BY NOV 10. END FYI.
KATZEN

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NNN

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